THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS CENTER FOR AFRICA

CONFERENCE REPORT

The Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa Conference
Expediting the Implementation of Africa's 2030 Agenda
Kigali, Rwanda
26 - 27 January, 2017

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS CENTER FOR AFRICA

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I. INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

The Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa (SDGC/A) held the first ever conference *Expediting the Implementation of Africa's 2030 Agenda* on 26 – 27 January 2017, at the Radisson Blu Hotel and Convention Center, Kigali, Rwanda. The conference anchored the unprecedented move of Africa to chart its own path on global issues, through establishing its own capacity towards accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) agenda across Africa. Participants were invited to the official launch of the SDGC/A and the presentation of the Africa Report 2030 - serving as a blueprint for how Africa can achieve the SDGs by 2030 – as well as discussing the major themes relevant to SDG implementation in Africa.

The Conference provided the opportunity for representatives from Member States, government officials, businesses, civil society, academia and experts to discuss the major themes relevant to SDG implementation in Africa. This included the thematic group sessions on three key areas:

I. **Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting (MER) System for SDGs in Africa**
II. **Development Financing for the SDGs**
III. **India-Africa Partnership: Pan-African ICT Platform for SDGs (Aadhaar program)**

A number of documents were made available on to the participants to provide background information, in advance, of the conference discussions:

1) The Africa 2030 Report: How Africa Can Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals
2) SDG Financing for Africa: *Key Propositions and Areas of Engagement - Discussion Paper for Development Finance Workshop*

The Conference was attended by 319 participants representing 81 different organizations, with 6 presentations and one panel discussion taking place over the course of the conference day. The final conference program is presented in the conference report. This report provides a summary of the key messages arising from the event and abstracts from each of the presentations.

The SDGC/A Conference was sponsored by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

II. PROGRAM

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS CENTER FOR AFRICA CONFERENCE
Expediting The Implementation of Africa's 2030 Agenda
27-26 January 2017
Kigali, Rwanda

Thursday, 26th January 2017
19:00 – 21:00 Dinner

Guest of Honor: Honorable Claver Gatete, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning
Master of Ceremonies (MC): Mr. George Ndirangu, Presenter, CNBC Africa

Friday, 27th January 2017
Conference

Guest of Honor: His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda
Master of Ceremonies: Mr. Godfrey Kabera, Director General of National Development Planning, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning

Time	Action
9:00 – 10:00am	Arrival of participants and Invited guests
10:00 – 10:30	Arrival of VIPs
11:00	Arrival of Guest of Honor
11:05 – 11:20	Introductory Remarks: Dr Belay Begashaw, Director General, SDGC/A *To set the context of the program and outlining the objectives of the SDGC/A*
11:20 – 11:30	Mr. Aliko Dangote, Owner, Dangote Group and Co-Chair of the SDGC/A Board *To outline the role of the private sector in SDG implantation in Africa*
11:30 – 11:35	Dr. Takao Toda, Vice President for Human Security & Global Health, JICA *Statement Remarks*
11:35	Keynote Address: Guest of Honor
12:00 – 12:20	Photo Session and Coffee Break
12:30 – 12:45	Video Conference Call

Time	Action
	Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs, Director, Sustainable Development Solutions Network and The Earth Institute
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch Break
13:45 – 14:45	Presentation Of The Africa Report 2030: How Africa Can Achieve The SDGs By 2030? Moderator: Ms. Bronwyn Nielsen, CNBC Africa Presenter: Aniket Shah, SDGC/A Panelists: - Honorable Claver Gatete, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Rwanda - Dr Belay Begashaw, Director General, SDGC/A - Mr. Sindiso Ngwenya, Secretary General, COMESA - Mr. Admassu Yilma Tadesse, President and Chief Executive Officer, Trade and Development Bank of Eastern and Southern Africa (Formerly trading as PTA Bank) Theme: - *Examine the performance and challenges of African countries on the MDGs.* - *Recognize best practices to carry towards the SDGs 2030 agenda.*
14:45 – 16:00	Parallel Thematic Group Discussions
14:45 – 16:00	Session 1: Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting (MER) System for SDGs in Africa Chair: Professor Vijay Modi, Director, Sustainable Engineering Lab, Columbia University Presenter: Lina Henao and May Hui, SDGC/A Theme: *- Cost effective and replicable Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) System for all African nations to ensure a successful SDG Agenda.*
14:45 – 16:00	Session 2: Development Financing for the SDGs Chair: Mr. Admassu Yilma Tadesse, President and Chief Executive Officer, Trade and Development Bank of Eastern and Southern Africa (Formerly trading as PTA Bank) Presenter: Aniket Shah, SDGC/A Theme: *- Garnering increased financial support for African governments to manage the achievement of SDGs.*
14:45 – 16:00	Session 3: India-Africa Partnership: Pan-African ICT Platform for SDGs (Aadhaar Program) Chair: Honorable Jean Philbert Nsengimana, Minister of Youth and ICT

Time	Action
	Presenter: Gordon Shaw, SDGC/A Theme: *- Presentation of a unique and cutting-edge technology on biometric identification, which will soon be rolled out in African countries.*
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee Break
16:30 – 17:00	Plenary Presentation of the Thematic Group Discussion
17:00 – 17:15	Q&A and Discussions
17:15 – 17:30	Closing Remarks - Dr Belay Begashaw, Director General, SDGC/A - Honorable Claver Gatete, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Rwanda

III. HIGH LEVEL OPENING

THE SDGC/A CONFERENCE OPENING PLENARY SESSION

The SDGC/A Conference plenary session was opened with addresses from Dr. Belay Begashaw, Director-General of SDGC/A, Mr. Aliko Dangote, Owner of Dangote Group and Co-Chair of the SDGC/A Board, Dr. Takao Toda, Vice President for Human Security and Global Health, JICA and the keynote address by the guest of honor, H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda.

SPEECHES AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Opening Address by Dr. Belay Begashaw

Director General, SDGC/A

It is a great honor and distinct privilege for me to address you all at this opening plenary session of The Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa Conference: Expediting the Implementation of Africa's 2030 Agenda, which is taking place in this beautiful city of Kigali. At the outset, please allow me to express my deep gratitude to His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, and the Government and the people of Rwanda, for hosting The Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa Conference and for placing these excellent facilities at the disposal of our delegates.

Let me also take this opportunity to express our gratitude to His Excellency President Idriss Déby Itno of Chad, His Excellency President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi of Mozambique, His Excellency President Alassane Dramane Ouattara of Côte d'Ivoire, His Excellency President Alpha Condé of Guinea, His Excellency Patrice Talon of Benin, His Excellency President Nana Akufo-Addo of Ghana and the former President of Ghana His Excellecy John Dramani Mahama, the Ex-Officio Board Members.

I also wish to express our gratitude to the Co-Chair of the Board and Owner of Dangote Group, Mr. Aliko Dangote for his relentless support and guidance to the Center and other initiatives. To all board members of the Center, we are grateful for your support. Last but not least, let me recognize our great friends and partners who have come from outside of Africa for this conference.

The Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa welcomes you to the official launch of the Center and the presentation of the Africa 2030 Report. I'm truly humbled as I look around the room at this group of many of the most influential people in Africa. We're at a unique time in history where

Africa is starting to be recognized as a real force after a period of impressive growth and accomplishments, congratulations to our visionary leaders.

Africa, this time around has made an unprecedented move to chart its own path on global issues by establishing its own capacity to support, follow up and guide its citizens' efforts towards implementing the SDGs. This demonstrates among other things that African countries are increasingly looking to Africa for solutions to its problems and making a meaningful contribution to the global arena. For example, despite a time of uncertainty, increased nationalism and protectionism across the globe, Africa is increasingly opening its borders to create a single African trade zone, developing their own solutions to crises across the continent, and sharing ideas in forums like this to learn lessons from each other.

This African collaboration was exactly the reason for opening the SDG Center as one of the homegrown solutions for Africa. If we are to meet the SDGs, we need to share stories about what works and what doesn't, develop creative ways to finance projects that will aid in development, and combine our knowledge in order to multiply it. We have so much on this continent, and if we're able to properly harness it I have no doubts that we will achieve our goals.

The Center, started its operations in July 2016 and is graciously hosted with a generous host country agreement by the Government of Rwanda. Thank you your Excellency President Kagame. We are happy to unveil some of our hard work and discuss our future plans during this conference. We are an organization of action and results, and welcome you to remember this as you follow our progress throughout the years.

Our mission at the Center is to support governments, civil society, businesses and academic institutions to accelerate progress towards the SDGs. We will accomplish this through engaging in research, policy and technical work among others. Let me take a moment to thank our donors who have contributed to our modest success this far. It would be impossible for one organization to accomplish everything on its own, it is the Center's goal to bring together ideas and experts. We are therefore constantly looking for strategic partnerships.

To build its capacity and coverage, the Center has acquired land in this great city of Kigali and is optimistic that it will soon build its own facilities that will be used for offices, training and SDGs solutions demonstration purposes. It is also looking forward to open regional centers to represent and appreciate the immense differences in the agro-ecology, socio-cultural and geo-political aspects of the regions.

The Center employs experts from many different sectors -- Dear Center staff, I recognize your efforts, keep it up! It also has an extensive network of academics through the UNs SDSN, and are under the governance of an extremely accomplished board. Very shortly, we will present the

Africa 2030 Report, which we've been working on for many months, and we hope serves as a blueprint for where Africa can be by 2030.

We will also discuss some of our current initiatives, including; building monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems for monitoring the progress of African countries towards the SDGs, development financing for SDGs platforms, a cooperative agreement with the Indian government for the development of an identification system based on biometrics. Citizen understanding and engagement with SDGs will ensure inclusiveness and bring about real community life solutions for development. Indices that are simplified for easy comprehension will be used to communicate progress and get feedback from community members at grassroots level.

One other group that is not singled out enough as crucial for development is Africa's intellectuals. Academics are able to influence every area of life, and we count on them to develop new technologies, warn us about and prevent calamities, conduct life-saving research. The Center will create a network of African intellectuals to increase collaboration on crucial issues. The Center intends to utilize existing knowledge relevant to the SDGs through operating a knowledge hub that filters existing or new information, packaging it to suit end users and sharing it through various appropriate means.

The Private sector is indispensable in the achievement of SDGs, they hold enormous experience and capital which if invested in a responsible manner will bring about the transformation that Africa needs. Business and Investment forums will be established to bring together Government, Business and Universities to forge new partnerships for SDGs. The business voice and perspectives will be heard and governments will create enabling policy environment.

I want to thank each and every one of you for participating in this SDGC/A Conference, which is a platform to bring all the actors that will affect the success of SDG implementation. In this room we have representatives from many governments, development banks, international organizations, and businesses. Everyone has their part to play in achieving the SDGs, and we're much stronger and effective when we work together.

My call to all of you. We all know and appreciate the role of politicians; however, politicians alone can't accomplish meeting the SDGs, it is up to citizens to make individual contributions. My call is one to all citizens of Africa who have been fortunate in their lives to create opportunities to give back to the people. Government budgets can only go so far, and the more people that are actively supporting others or development efforts, the more we can accomplish.

To conclude, I would like to share a word that I recently learned in Kinyarwanda, *agaciro*. Agaciro means dignity or self-respect, and I want this Center to embody

this word in all of our work. Our work is not to "give aid to beneficiaries" or even to develop countries because this implies countries are unable to do it themselves. Instead, we aim to create platforms to share knowledge across the continent and empower countries and individuals to have agaciro and help Africa to continue to rise and meet the SDGs.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Opening Address by Mr. Aliko Dangote

Owner, Dangote Group and Co-Chair of the SDGC/A Board

I am very pleased to be here today, I am honored to be given the opportunity to take a few remarks at this occasion.

Human development challenges, poverty, illiteracy, disease and environment have dominated global discussions for several decades. While one must admit that a lot has been achieved through different global programs, more so remains to be done. Available statistics indicates that though extreme poverty has been caught by more than half since 1990, and about one billion people still live on less than 1.25 USD per day, more than 800 people do not have enough food to eat, one nine people are malnourished and about 3.1 million children under the age of five die annually due to poor nutrition. Millions of women still die at childbirth, about 100 million youth worldwide still lack basic literacy skills. Unfortunately, the disproportionate number of these people live in our continent in Africa. It is quite heartwarming that unlike the MDGs that focus mostly on poverty, health and primary education; the SDGs with 17 goals and 169 targets is broad and more complex. It will address additional challenges including: economic growth, environmental sustainability and social inclusion.

As a businessman I am excited to see that the role of the private sector in sustainable development is recognized in formulation of the SDGs. African governments must encourage the private sector to take a leading role and participate meaningfully in policy design and implementation and in creating a viable public/private partnerships. In doing so an enabling business environment must be created through appropriate policy and other regulatory frameworks. Innovation solutions must be sought and focus must be on responsible and social impactful business and investment practices. Due consideration must be given to reducing social economic gaps within and between countries and priority should be given to other SDG related sectors such as renewable energy, health and ICT. On this part, the private sector should fine tune CSR ventures to positively impact the local communities in line with the SDGs by supporting enterprise development, economic linkages, supply of goods and services, skill development for youth, job creation and entrepreneurship. We should also advocate and promote industry standards and knowledge sharing; fostering dialogue among key stakeholders, strengthening national and regional chambers of commerce, and advocate the establishment of the national SDG business and investment forums to develop a formal business voice and perspective for national governments as they integrate SDGs into the national planning process.

The broad scope of the SDGs, brings with some of its challenges, one of which is that of organization, coordination and monitoring. This is especially so in Africa, a continent where good quality data is usually difficult to come by, infrastructure is generally poor and skill sets very low. The establishment of the homegrown Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa which is being launched today is therefore clearly a step in the right direction as it will help address these challenges.

In closing, I know that institutions do not excel and endure unless they are supported and this Center will be no different. The Director-General and his team have hit the ground running and now need the total support of all present out here today and millions out there to deliver on their mandate. I want to particularly single out and thank the Rwandan government under the distinguished leadership of H.E. President Paul Kagame, for hosting the Center in this beautiful city. I think, your excellency, I must thank you for making sure that this actually took off in no time, we thank you very much, Your Excellency, for your leadership. On my part, you can count on my full support and commitment to the success of this Center and its management.

I thank you all for attending this great event and thank you for listening.

Opening Address by Dr. Takao Toda

Vice President for Human Security and Global Health, JICA

On behalf of JICA I would like to extend my modest sincere appreciation and respect and positive surprise to the first establishment in the world of SDG Centers, here in Kigali, Rwanda for the whole continent of Africa. Why Rwanda? It is evident by the strong and attractive leadership of the honorable President of the Republic of Rwanda. Yesterday, I visited laboratories to have a very intimate interview with the youth. I have to confess, Rwanda is far ahead than Japan, when it comes to the youth's knowledge about the SDGs.

People say it is very difficult to achieve the SDGs in Africa, I have to admit that. Let us scrutinize the responsibility of the world in the global arena. By 2050, one out of 4 global citizens will be African. And as some of you know very well, Africa is the only region which will enjoy the longest demographic population bonus until at least 2080. By the end of this Century, one out of three productive population of the world will be African.

On the other hand, we have to be very scientific about the level of education. There is a great challenge, but at the same time it is apparent that the Africa issue is not an African issue, it is a global one. Africa has the responsibility to sustain the global economies and societies, and that is why I am here to work with Africa. Let us distinguish the distance between the pessimism and the hope for achieving SDGs. What is a key word for achieving SDGs in Africa? It is my belief that wisdom is the key word. Wisdom cannot decrease its value when shared, wisdom increases values when shared, wisdom makes free use of limited financial and natural resources; and wisdom transforms difficulties and risks to chances and opportunities. As Rwanda has done at this stage. Let us have another abbreviation of the SDGs: Strategic Development of Global Talents in Africa.

Let us be connected with each other with the infinite power of wisdom, technology and innovation. Let us transform difficulties to opportunities to achieve SDGs in Africa, for Africa and by Africa.
Murakoze Cyane
Asante Sana
Merci infiniment à tous
Muchas gracias
Thank you very much
And domo arigatou gozaimasu

Keynote Address by His Excellency Paul Kagame

President of the Republic of Rwanda

Good morning,

Let me start by welcoming our guests to Rwanda. Many of you are here for this one-day event, but I hope you will stay longer, to explore the country, and get to know the people. I want to thank you, for joining us to launch the SDG Center for Africa, and discuss how we can work together, to accelerate the implementation of our continent's development agenda.

I also want to thank Dr Begashaw and his team, for the good work that has been done in the past year, to set up the center here in Kigali, as well as the funders who have made it possible. The SDG framework is intended to be applicable and relevant to all countries, not just the so-called developing ones. But as Africans, we should see this as an unprecedented opportunity to bridge the gap between our current challenges and our ambitions, by doing, once and for all, the right things, in the right way.

This center will serve as an important focal point for advocacy and coordination. But like the SDGs themselves, this institution is a tool to help us get what we really want, and that is results. We therefore have to ensure that the actions we take, contribute to fundamental change, in the lives of the people who need it most. Events around the world teach us that, both fragility and strength can be found in any country. So we all have a role to play, and what is really important is cooperation, working closely together to make progress.

The total amount of traditional aid from all donors adds up to less than 5% of the estimated cost of the investments needed each year to achieve the SDGs. That figure is not going to increase very much, if at all. Therefore, as we continue to make the best use of available development aid, the solution to funding the SDGs has to come from business activity, philanthropy, government, and the individual contributions of the world's billions of citizens.

In order to succeed, we will need to integrate important lessons from implementing the MDGs, particularly promoting gender equality, and harnessing science and technology. Raising our focus from reducing poverty to building prosperity will also require closer collaboration with, as well as higher expectations of, the private sector. We do not need to re-invent business, or change its mission. It should keep doing, what it does best.

But all the stakeholders should be measured against the same standards and goals. We therefore have to establish a clear way to measure impact of both public and private

sector actors. We are a year into the SDG framework, and it is time to create certainty and build momentum, by deciding how to monitor and evaluate progress. Building the data systems required to operationalize the SDGs, should be a strategic focus for public-private partnership. The companies involved have extensive experience designing and managing complex information systems. We need to draw on it, and work together. In addition, when the contributions of all the various actors are visible and comparable, it is much easier to see how initiatives can leverage each other, to achieve results for citizens.

Let me end with a final point, which is also the most critical. And this is, instilling the mindsets and habits that are most conducive to attaining the SDGs. Ultimately, it's about what citizens do with their own time and money. For Rwanda, a consultative and participatory approach has been indispensable to the modest progress that has been achieved. But we can all do more, and better. The SDGs offer a unique opportunity to highlight the importance of good politics, and make it more widely understood, as a prerequisite for inclusive and sustainable development. Thus, these global goals should not be seen as an external agenda, but as an integrated part of a country's development vision.

Once again, I thank you for your participation and contributions, and wish you a productive conference.

IV. PLENARY SESSION

PRESENTATION AND PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE AFRICA 2030 REPORT

The SDGC/A Conference plenary session continued with a video conference call with Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs, Director, Sustainable Development Solutions Network and The Earth Institute. In addition, there was a presentation on the Africa 2030 Report presented by Mr. Aniket Shah, Program Leader, SDG Financing Initiatives, SDGC/A. The session continued with panel discussion on the Africa 2030 Report moderated by Ms. Bronwyn Nielsen, Executive Director, ABN Group and Head of Programming, CNBC Africa. The panelists included: Honorable Claver Gatete, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning for Rwanda; Dr. Belay Begashaw, Director-General of SDGC/A; Mr. Sindiso Ngwenya, Secretary General of COMESA and Mr. Admassu Tadesse, President and Chief Executive Officer of Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank.

Introduction

The video conference call, presentation and panel discussion of the Africa 2030 Report were a comprehensive and deep assessment of the performance of African countries on the achievement of the MDGs, to understand the roots that hindered their complete achievement, as well as recognizing the best practices to move forward in line with the SDG agenda.

Video Conference Call

Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs, Director, Sustainable Development Solutions Network and The Earth Institute

Thank you very much and let me give a warm greeting to everyone in Kigali, Rwanda. I was certainly planning to be with you in person and very much looking forward to it of course. At the last moment, Dr. Sonia Sachs and I received very nice news that we had been awarded an annual award by the World Sustainability Forum, that was the good news. The bad news from the point of meeting with you is that we were asked to attend the World Sustainability Forum which is taking place today in Cape Town, South Africa. So our travel got rerouted from Kigali to Cape Town; however I am happy to be with you through video conference call. I can tell you the good news that in Cape Town there are also hundreds of people assembled specifically to promote the Sustainable Development Goals; including major universities around Africa and our host here is the University of Cape Town and the University of Western Cape. I will be giving my remarks to them in a keynote address in just a few minutes and I will be

emphasizing the role of the SDG Center for Africa and the role that the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). So I hope that my being here in Cape Town and with you in Kigali, will help to strengthen the linkages of the South African universities with the SDG Center for Africa.

Let me first express my appreciation to the new Center. Thank you all for coming and thank you to the Center for organizing this first public session, a very important one. I want to give a special thanks to His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda and to Honorable Claver Gatete, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning for Rwanda and to the Government of Rwanda; what a wonderful Government and wonderful host. And thank you for all of the support which has been tremendous, steadfast, unwavering, in helping this Center to become operational in a very short period of time. I want to thank my dear friend and longtime colleague the Director-General of the SDG Center for Africa, Dr. Belay Begashaw, for his remarkable work and energy to establish this Center. I can tell you that any time that I called Dr. Begashaw, morning, noon or night he is working, he is travelling, he is consulting and mobilizing and that is why you are all gathered here today and why he has been able to get the Center up and running in a remarkably short period of time.

I want to thank the SDG Center for Africa Board and many supporters with a special thanks to JICA which is a very longstanding friend and supporter of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and now of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This demonstrates Japan's long-term commitment to Africa which goes back to many decades and I know it will continue to go forward in an open ended way; and so we are grateful to JICA for their support and helping the Center to get started.

I believe that this is a breakthrough era for Africa and the MDG period 2000 to 2015, was a period of several notable successes and no country demonstrated more success and progress than Rwanda; which gave tremendous strides in achieving the MDGs and earned the worldwide admiration and support for showing that a very directed effort at health, education, infrastructure and at business development could have very significant and rapid pay offs. And I believe that, that lesson applies generally in Africa for this new phase of the SDGs to cover the period 2016 to 2030. Time will go fast, we have already spent one of the 15 years of the SDGs period, so I beseech all of us to work around the clock, every day, to make sure that these goals are fully achieved in the entire continent.

I believe that Asia is a role model for Africa, because Asia has demonstrated how very rapid and broad based growth can be achieved. Of course Japan, was an exemplar and in a way a teacher, with a doubling of Japan's income with the famous income doubling era of the 1960s and from that inspiration came the Asian Tigers of Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong, which made remarkable leaps forward in economic

development and ending poverty. And then came the largest and most rapid economic transformation in history; and that is the People's Republic of China, which since 1978 achieved more than three decades of double digit economic growth. Now the growth has slowed down a little bit because China has become a much more developed economy; but during the high growth phase of the three decades the double digit growth means that China was achieving the doubling of the national income every seven years. And this led to essentially the end to extreme poverty in China in a very short period of time, roughly in the last 25 years.

I think Africa can take inspiration from these role models of East Asia; because they show how fast development can occur when there is a strong focus and a deliberate planning strategy. And I think planning; thinking ahead and focusing on the medium term, are hallmarks of the Asian success and should be hallmarks of Africa's success as well. And in this regard, the SDGs give us clear targets; very strong targets; for the year 2030. So I believe that we should take extremely seriously the quantitative targets of the SDGs and ensure that all of Africa is meeting them and this is the goal of the SDG Center for Africa.

Africa has an advantage that East Asia does not have. And that is the full extent of the modern information and communications technologies (ICT). These new ICTs make it possible to innovate in every sector of the economy; in health delivery, education, e-governance, financial inclusion, precision agriculture, business development. I believe that our greatest, single, technical tool is deploying information technology pervasively with broadband access reaching to villages as well as the cities. If this is done and if we build on top of this new information network; the applications for health, education and government and the business sector; I think that it then will be possible to move faster than ever before in achieving breakthroughs in all key areas. If you look at the success of Japan, the Asian Tigers and the People's Republic of China, one of the characteristics was a very high rate of investment in a broad range of targeted areas. Some of the investment was in infrastructure; building the transport, communication and the power generators to support the economy. Some of the investment was of course in business capital; building up the business sector. But a lot of the investment was in two other areas that I would emphasize. One is human capital – that is investing in the education, health and nutrition of every child so that Africa's children of this generation reach every potential that they have. And every child in school now should at least complete a secondary education. And we should ensure that every child by 2030 reliably is entering a pre-kindergarten; and then continuing all the way to high school completion and vocational school. This I believe is one of the most important, quantitative goals that we can achieve because if Africa can educate all of its children, this will be extraordinarily transformative. If Africa can ensure that every child gets at least a secondary education and then is equipped with decent

21st Century infrastructure, including roads, power and telecommunications and access to broadband internet, Africa will boom; it will leap frog; it will achieve the SDGs and it will put extreme poverty behind it.

If you look at the investment rates in Asia in the high growth phase, the investment rates were on the order of around 40 per cent of the national income. If you look at investment rates in Africa today they are more close to 20 per cent of the national income. One of the jobs that all governments need to encourage is to raise the saving and investment rates maybe even doubling those rates so that Africa's economic growth rate also doubles from around 5 per cent per year on average to ten per cent or higher, per year, on average. This is utterly feasible and this is the key part of planning for success for the SDGs. I urge every government and university to be thinking about how to accelerate Africa's investments in infrastructure, human capital, education; innovation and thereby in business development so that Africa is the home for attracting international capital and building up the business sector as well.

One of the things I would like to do in my capacity as the Special Advisor to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. António Guterres, is to be able to convey to him that across Africa, the business sector, the academic sector and the government sector are working together to identify bold investment strategies and pathways to build the infrastructure, human capital and business capital to get the job done. And then to have the United Nations and the innovations that it can support at the global level, give African governments all the support that they need for success. One of the areas that I am most interested in promoting and would like to hear support and encouragement from around Africa; is for a new global fund for education. We know that Africa must educate every child all the way through secondary level, but in today's reality only about one fourth of African children actually complete secondary school. That needs to go from one fourth to 100 per cent. And that will require financial support from the international system, it will require technological support so that every school can be online, so that children can benefit from online technologies such as computer assisted learning, training of teachers, connecting classrooms through online means, online course material such as the SDSN is preparing at the university level in the program called the SDG Academy.

I am working with Africa's leaders and international leaders to help see if we can set up such a global fund for education but I would surely like to hear the support and especially the determination from around Africa that this will be the generation in which every child is able to get a quality education at least through secondary school.

Let me conclude by emphasizing that the SDG Center for Africa is for all of Africa. It is to provide a Center of excellence and a central node of a network that connects the universities, think tanks, learning centers

and the businesses and governments around Africa for the success of the SDGs. And I will give all of my support of course to ensure that Africa's institutions of higher learning, universities and think tanks are part of this network. And that everywhere we are helping to train new young leaders, students and young graduates, so that they can take on the exciting task of ensuring that Africa achieves the SDGs.

I want to thank you for letting me join the meeting briefly. I am on my way to give an address to the World Sustainability Forum, I can assure you that part of my presentation is about the SDG Center for Africa, so I will tell the invited participants here to join the SDG Center for Africa to become part of this network and to take on the very bold goals of achieving all of the SDGs. I know this is going to be done and Rwanda will be a role model in this process and the SDG Center for Africa will play a very strong role. Please know that in my capacity as the Special Advisor to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and as Director of SDSN, I will be working with you every day towards success.

All best wishes on the meeting, our hearts are with you and we will see you very soon. Thank you very much.

Presentation Abstract

Plenary Presentation: Africa 2030: *How Africa Can Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals*

Mr. Aniket Shah, Program Leader, SDG Financing Initiatives, SDGC/A

The presentation introduced and outlined the structure of the SDGC/A report Africa 2030: *How Africa Can Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals*. The Africa 2030 Report can be broken down into four sections. The first section of the report provides the baseline assessment of progress during the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Despite significant achievements and progress; this has in fact been very uneven by the goals, by country and by sector. The second section of the report, developed a framework for thinking about the gaps, based on the baseline, for how we go from the MDGs to the SDGs. These gaps will be further analyzed in future reports from the SDGC/A, and with the assistance of various organizations. The third section of the report discusses regional priorities and challenges for Africa to confront. The SDGC/A believes that regional integration and continued regional analysis is a large part of the solution for the SDGs. Therefore, this section observes each of the five regions of Africa and outlines key projects, challenges and opportunities that need to be faced. Finally, the report concludes with an approach on the way in which the SDGs can be used for investment planning purposes. If the

SDGs are to be useful at all, beyond marketing, they should be used as a method by which African nations in fact try to double their investment levels. Observing the SDGs as an investment plan, the presentation examined the gross capital formation for Sub-Saharan Africa, East Asia and China over the last 15 years. In the case that Sub-Saharan Africa reached the level of gross capital formation as China – a doubling – it would mean an additional 250 – 300 billion US dollars per annum for investment in the continent. If Sub-Saharan Africa reached the level of East Asia it would mean 100 – 150 billion US dollars of additional investment per annum to achieve the SDGs.

There are two structural challenges that the report argues Africa will need to confront if the SDGs are to be achieved by 2030 and if the Agenda 2063 is to be reached. These are underappreciated and under-discussed in business and in development on the continent. Population growth is the first challenge. Sub-Saharan Africa will effectively quadruple its population from 2010 to the end of the Century, from less than a billion to around 3.5 billion people. This would mean a twenty-time increase in population from 1950 to 2100. The demographic challenges that the continent faces are significant and it is argued that too many people think of demographic as just the opportunity and are not looking at it from the challenge perspective. The report articulates the various ways in which the demographic dividend can actually be met in Africa. The second structural problem, which will be the most devastating unless significant action is taken, is climate change. Climate change vulnerability is examined and the results for Africa are quite dire in the context of extreme weather, sea level rise, agricultural productivity and overall vulnerability. 10/10 of the most vulnerable countries in the world are located in Africa. And 18 out of 20 of the most vulnerable countries in the world are also located in Africa. To mitigate these problems we need international efforts, however one will also need to think about a type of infrastructure adaptation on the continent, not just for energy but for agriculture and other sectors – issues that are discussed in the report in detail.

The next steps of the Africa 2030 Report is to work with governments, business, academia and civil society in order to take this report into countries and into regions to examine the way in which these recommendations can be implemented within these institutions. Following this, the Center will begin working on Volume II of the Africa 2030 Report, which will be published in the upcoming years, focusing specifically on investment gaps, the tools of understanding investment gaps and the strategies and institutions to fix them. The only way the Center can do this is through partnerships, as the data that is used should be accurate and verifiable, from the countries themselves and working with partner organizations and institutions to ensure that it is a useful exercise. The Africa 2030 Report is also the commencement of discussions of the main topics with the broader public, and for the reports and analysis to be understood and appreciated by the broader population as opposed to highly technical expert groups; in addition to working with many media agencies and radios to that over the next few months and years.

In conclusion, the Africa 2030 Report is just the beginning. The Center does not plan to continue to produce many voluminous reports, however reports will be produced in partnership with the organizations represented at the conference on key issues and key areas in order to make progress. It has been outlined during the opening plenary session that the SDGC/A is a Center whose purpose is progress and impact. If the current path in the development of Africa is continued, then the continent will not have adequate institutions and technologies in place at scale for the SDGs to be achieved.

Panel Discussion

1. *Going forward, how will SDGC/A manage the speed of execution as you will be expected to advise on national and regional levels?*
    - Unlike the MDGs, the SDGs are looking at where we need to be in the future and planning the steps walking backwards. This will require major changes in our speed, business model and management of finances with each year's plan feeding into the next through to 2030.
    - The most important role is to contextualize the goals to every African country so that citizens can understand how this is achievable within their particular livelihoods. Yet, we also have to keep engaging the global audience using the targets and indicators as a common language particularly with respect to goals that are more prominent on the global agenda, which we are also accountable for.

2. *What are the existing challenges in regional integration, which will be key in unlocking the doors for achieving the SDGs for Africa?*
    - Regional integration also needs a paradigm shift and can no longer conduct business as usual. This is achieved when national plans and strategies of each country are being met by an integrated government, academia, private sector and civil society which can then collectively mainstream the SDGs.
    - We have to focus on knowledge management head towards inclusive economies that are creative and innovative, in addition to acknowledging what we consider best practice and building on it.

3. *How do we work around the major deficits in health, education, energy and infrastructure in relation to the SDGs?*
    - The MDGs had a 64 billion US dollar per annum costing while the SDGs are looking at a much wider and deeper set of goals with greater costing. This means, the public sector finance net has to be extended with tax administration and the

resources sector efficiency needs to be reformed.

- The public sector has to get leverage off of institutional capital and private capital flows which should go to safety and performance.
- As much as policy consistency is key to investment, performance is also critical and institutions that govern the policies need to display their capacity to deliver.

4. *How do we manage to present bankable projects that can minimize risks for investors and guarantee performance while competing for funding with other African countries and with those in the global market?*
    - Although Africa has received much attention from governments, a great number of them have been in areas that are conventional.
    - Investors should look into the venture capital idea, which comes from the private sector, and increase support in such projects until they are considered feasible or bankable for DFIs.
    - Governments need to show support for innovative business ideas by playing the role of guarantors. Regional and continental level leaders should also provide similar support that compliments what national governments are providing.

5. *Are we prepared to have the conversation around climate change caused by the rise of population in Africa?*
    - There are three areas of focus:
        i. Variability of Africa: Research and investment towards alleviating environmental shocks.
        ii. Vulnerability of Africa: The rise in temperature and the pace with which crops are reaching their thermal tolerance level.
        iii. Adoption Capacity of Africa: New technologies and ideas being introduced into the livelihoods of communities and households and their resilience capacity
    - African countries need to take advantage of how the climate funds are structured so we can leap into technology based opportunities that provide access to clean energy. It should not be acceptable that all the climate change related facilities are outside of Africa.
    - There are eight global funds related to environment and each of them have different requirements for the projects to be financed. The packaging of each project is important, and for each country a fund has to be established for people to be encouraged to innovate. There have to be policies that guide these funding strategies.

6. *What is the advantage that exists in technology in the role it plays to expedite the execution of the SDGs?*
    - What we have to think about is adaptability and preparedness, which is tied to institutional capacity and human capital. Many countries in Africa need to take advantage of it and incentives rapid adoption.

7. *How has life changed in the East African community since the availability of broadband across Rwanda and the cancellation of roaming charges when traveling amongst Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya and South Sudan?*
    - Introducing technology into Rwanda began with a vision to transform the technology infrastructure, and interest rates dropped and mobile money made business within the country easier. This opened up business opportunities in the eastern region, and introduced the East African payment system, removed roaming charges and did away with passports, only using ID cards for border crossings.

8. *The inter-Africa trade sits between 12% - 17%. In a world where everyone is talking about de-globalization, Africa needs to insulate itself by trading with itself. Yet measuring and monitoring is key to investors who want to make sure projects are not incurring more costs than projected. How can we promise that?*
    - The SDGC/A has noted that M&E is a major aspect of its mission – a standardized data system and a monitoring system for gauging our performance. To be able to provide data that provides security for investors, the task will be to figure out how to set up the system, how to create a critical mass of knowledge together by bringing people together so they can kick-off a shared data system which we would institutionalize. We will be using a real-time data system and a satellite information system so we can increase data reliability, cost effectiveness and efficiency. The automation and digitization of our economies would allow us to do better monitoring and evaluation of our performance.

Resolutions

- Capital markets and good financial sector governance will allow Africa to take advantage of its own resources including resources outside of the continent in overseas reserves and in pension funds. If we can demonstrate that we can achieve a lot with our own capital, we can attract foreign capital.
- Credibility in leadership needs to be examined - requires us to put up a mirror to our communities to see who has been delivering on what has been promised.
- Climate change and population growth are key issues to development in Africa.
- There is a need to address issues of growth, poverty and inequality. So that the growth becomes inclusive, leaving nobody behind.
- Constant factors that need to be in place to attract investors are the following: macroeconomic stability, high growth rate, low inflation rate, low national debt and financial stability, business conducive environment, good governance, regional integration, innovation in all sectoral infrastructure
- Selecting high impact projects is critical to addressing issues that show results in multiple sectors and at different economic stratification of society. We should cooperate with other countries and learn about their best practices and see if we can contextualize them.
- We need to take note of these best practices and upscale them so we can get the money back into the continent.

V. THEMATIC GROUP SESSIONS

Session I: Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting Systems for SDGs in Africa

The Thematic Group Session I was chaired by Professor Vijay Modi, Director, Sustainable Engineering Lab, Columbia University. With presentations by Professor Modi, and Ms. May Hui, SDGs Advisor, SDGC/A, and Ms. Lina Henao, SDGs Advisor, SDGC/A.

Introduction

The session began with a presentation by Professor Vijay Modi (Director, Sustainable Engineering Lab, Columbia University) highlighting, from his previous projects and experience, the use and benefits of information systems for service delivery and management in countries with lean infrastructure.

The remainder of the time focused on the importance of developing a standardized and undemanding system for monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals across Africa, the Center's vision on how to achieve this goal, the Center's roadmap for 2017, a brief explanation on why DHIS2 is a good example of a MER tool, and highlighting how the Rwandan government has adopted DHIS2 as their national health information system. The session ended with an engaging time of questions and answer.

Presentation Abstracts

Presentation 1: Information Systems, Key to Service Delivery and Management in Lean Infrastructure
Professor Vijay Modi, Director, Sustainable Engineering Lab, Columbia University

The presentation examined the use of information systems as a tool for: asset inventory and networking; infrastructure functionality, funding local projects, and monitoring; securing financing by designing solutions and monitoring; and powering agricultural projects.

As an asset inventory and networking tool, Professor Modi showcased the use of geospatial data and maps for an electrification project in Nigeria. Utility teams collected, edited and mapped geospatial data on electricity lines, transformers, substations and protection equipment using low-cost methods such as smartphones. This information-helped policymakers plan and prioritize grid construction.

Next, Nigeria's MDG Information System was highlighted as an example of monitoring and documenting health, education and water facility inventories, their infrastructural functionality, and funding. It was such a helpful tool for the Nigerian government that they built another version of it integrating features they found helpful from the first version.

Through a series of developing electronic payment systems to lower transaction costs for irrigation, drinking water and health, Professor Modi and his team learned that farmers are capital constrained but creditworthy. In addition, it was emphasized the importance of localizing tools and incorporating lessons learnt (not collecting data for data sake, leveraging existing processes and capacities, forming partnerships, relationships and linkages across ministries and agencies, leapfrogging into pay as you go systems) into the development and maintenance of new and current information systems, and expressed the potential of a digital census across African nations.

Presentation 2: Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Vision in Africa
Ms. May Hui, SDGs Advisor, SDGC/A
Ms. Lina Henao, SDGs Advisor, SDGC/A

The SDGs are the new global agenda. One of the main lessons learned from the MDGs was the need for two things: disaggregated data and timely, accurate and reliable standardized data. With disaggregated data, we move away from hiding behind "the average" and are able to do a deep dive of the needs of the poor and most vulnerable. Now that we have 17 SDGs, 169 targets and 200+ indicators, this is a huge undertaking that no one can do alone.

The SDGC/A was created -in part -to support the monitoring and reporting of the SDGs in Africa. Our vision is for each African nation to:

- Have their own standardized, simple, and undemanding MER system that will continue long after the SDGs are over.
- Have strengthened and robust national statistics institutes so that they are able to regularly access and produce their own progress reports.
- Adopt a data driven policy and decision making process.

- Lastly, we envision a regional and Pan-African cooperative space to foster a mutually beneficial network of people, institutions and ideas related to reporting, comparison accountability and performance-based financing of the SDGs.

By upgrading and standardizing MER systems. This will ensure:

- Timely decision-making through real or near-time data.
- Greater accountability of performance and budgets.
- More responsive governance through greater transparency.
- Increased managerial capacity at all levels.
- And greater opportunities for performance-based financing and investments.

The key to this is timely reporting. Through regular reporting, it allows each nation to:

- Showcase and own their achievements, deficits, results and impact.
- Hold themselves accountable at all levels of the SDG framework.
- Prioritize and strategize the planning and policy agendas and investments.
- And ensure citizens understand and engage in the SDG results and process.

The Center is in current talks with Rwanda, Benin and Mozambique and is currently involved in a) the process of nations selecting, localizing and aligning SDG indicators to their national plans, b) assessing the capacities and systems of national statistics institutes to identify gaps, and c) devising a capacity building strategy based on each country's needs.

In order to ensure that each nation has ownership and accountability at all levels of the SDG framework, the Center aims to provide:

1. Technical support
2. The transfer of tools and knowledge
3. Training and enhancement of human capital
4. Customization of a web-based MER platform according to each nation's needs and SDGs
5. Backstopping and trouble shooting

A Brief Explanation on Why DHIS2 is a Good Example of a MER Tool

DHIS2 is a powerful tool and is highly scalable. It is designed to work in low resource environments and has a large presence in Africa (29 African countries). Additionally, it is open-source, highly customizable and can be adapted for many sectors. It is able to collect, visualize and analyze data for reporting, decision-making, accountability and implementation and

management, which are desirable features in a MER tool for the SDGs. The DHIS2 platform allows users to customize their dashboard with graphs, charts, and maps illustrating real-time trends over time, heat maps highlighting performance between geographic regions, country/multi-country scorecards, and disaggregated data.

Rwanda: A Case Study on the Nation's Adoption of DHIS2

In the past few years, Rwanda has adopted DHIS2 for their National Health Information System. Data is collected using paper-forms by workers in the village level or by different sectors and is entered into DHIS2 by a data manager. The data is housed in the National Data Center.

Resolutions

- The SDG Center for Africa hopes to hold the honor to facilitate this space for everyone. While not an exhaustive list, having a Pan-African mutually beneficial collaborative network can: Centralize national SDG data and reporting; Ease national and sub-regional comparison of SDG progress; Improve coordination mechanisms to publicly communicate; Promote connection and dialogue between you all and statisticians to share experiences, challenges and lessons learned; Engage stakeholders and citizens in the decision-making and accountability process; Influence better allocation of resources; and foster performance based financing.
- DHIS2 is a suggested tool. If there is another tool a country has been using for a while and work, they should keep it. The Center is not interested in funding a data collection or reporting tool and is not pushing countries to adopt DHIS2, but more interested in ensuring that there is a tool that standardizes data and reporting so that SDG data outcomes can be reliable, timely, regular and comparable.
- The data and analysis from MER systems can be akin to market research. The tools help identify gaps in services that the private sector can meet.
- SDGC/A will do our best to support Rwanda in whatever needs they have and foster a mutually beneficial network to facilitate knowledge sharing and learning.

Session II: Development Financing for the SDGs

The Thematic Group Session II was chaired by Mr. Admassu Tadesse, President and Chief Executive of Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank. With presentations by Mr. Aniket Shah, Program Leader, SDG Financing Initiatives, SDGC/A, and Mr. James Leitner, President, Falcon Management Corporation.

Introduction

The session began with a presentation by Mr. Aniket Shah (Program Leader, SDG Financing Initiatives, SDGC/A) and Mr. James Leitner (President, Falcon Management Corporation). Following the presentations, the session chair Mr. Admassu Tadesse (President and CEO of the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank) began with an address on the proposed support to African governments in the development of new financing models for enhancing the SDG financing effort to support its implementations.

Presentation Abstracts

Presentation 1: Development Financing Workshop
Mr. Aniket Shah, Program Leader, SDG Financing Initiatives, SDGC/A

The presentation outlined the information provided in the publication, SDG Financing for Africa: *Key Propositions and Areas of Engagement - Discussion Paper for Development Finance Workshop*, written by Dr. Belay Begashaw, Director General, SDGC/A and Mr. Aniket Shah. The publication gives a backdrop within which the SDG financing discussions of Africa are happening. As mentioned in the presentation of the Africa 2030 Report, it is evident that Africa needs to double its investment rate and it is SDGC/A's belief that development banks and development finance institutions can play a role in this. This is due to the fact that when you examine the three largest economic transformations of the last 200 years, they were in fact driven by development banks. The beginning with the Industrial Revolution, to the rebuilding of Europe after World War II and decolonization, and the third was the rise of China. In each one of these scenarios the financial push came from state-driven financial institutions that successfully intermediated private saving for public good. This is a model that we know works, and thankfully as the Chairman has stated, many of the participants in the conference have been part of this and leading on this for a long time and the SDGC/A is here to examine how it is possible that one can be more up-to-task for the implementation of the SDGs.

The SDGC/A has developed a framework of thinking about the alignment of a regional development financing institutions (DFI) with the SDGs, that includes five parts.

1) Size and Instrument: Is the DFI operating at a size and scale that is meaningful for the SDGs? And if not what is the binding constraint and how does one remove the binding constraint of size.

2) Additionality: This constantly requires our attention as development finance institutions. Is the DFI actually crowding in private or commercial capital or is it replacing it? How is this being judged? What are the best practices?

3) Alignment: Is the DFI aligned with a plan or a strategy that gets us to the SDGs? Africa has a spirit of development planning, like Asia, but many of these development plans are words on paper and not necessarily costed and aligned with broader, global strategies.

4) Knowledge and Capacity: Does the DFI have the capacity, internal resources, skill sets that are needed for all the 17 goals?

5) Financial Geography: How are the lending and investing practices of the bank, in the perspective of clustering and agglomeration – are the activities of the bank clustered around a few geographic centers? Are they evenly dispersed? How does this interplay with risk management?

For each one of these parts, SDGC/A is developing both quantitative and qualitative measures to really assess the DFI's relationship with the broader development goals. This discussion is a vital part of the conference and working with various governments and institutions going forward.

Presentation 2: Development Financing Workshop
Mr. James Leitner, President, Falcon Management Corporation

The presentation examined investments in Africa and indicators such as the UN development index. As the President of the Republic of Rwanda stated in the opening plenary session, "SDG's make good politics" – this is process that runs both ways as good politics make for good markets, which leads to increased capital flows, and increased capital flows report the SDGs.

More recently there is a database at the University of Gothenburg that developed data of the stock markets for 17 countries from the year 1900. In addition, 550 indicators were developed of

social and democratic governance. Mr. Leitner decided to run a correlation between changes in those indicators over the previous ten years, and changes in stock market over the next ten years. Of the 550 indicators, 150 were considered positive such as women's rights, freedom of expression, and inclusiveness in the democratic process. In comparison, there would be 10 or so that were negative such as increased corruption. Observing the changes in the positive indicators, the increase in these indicators shows that the correlations were all positive to the stock market increasing 10 years later. The same was found with the negative indicators, as areas such as more corruption resulted in weaker stock markets in the following 10 years after the fact. The five to six groups that could be combined were areas such as women's rights and empowerment – the study found 10 different ways to measure it, such as the number of women represented in parliament, journalism, etc. Women's rights, freedom of expression, rights for participation – the "inclusive policies" noted by the President of the Republic of Rwanda – all were positively correlated in the study. This indicates that the DFI's mission would be to take the SDGs and market them internally to the governments. It is evident that countries that do well in the implementation of the 17 global goals for sustainable development will have better financial markets going forward; offering more Initial Public Offerings (IPOs), capital flow from foreigners investing into the country as they are interested in good returns – good markets make for good returns.

In the USA there are 9 trillion US dollars that are managed by the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Mandate, but there is not a system managed with the SDG Mandates – as ESG clearly fall within the SDG Agenda. Leading up to the conference, Mr. Leitner engaged with leading individuals in finance, such as Goldman-Sachs, Morgan Stanley, Merrill Lynch, and Stay Street Bank, to ask what it would take for development finance institutions to promote the SDGs and talk about emerging markets to their customers. The leading groups indicated that they would invest more if there was improvement in various areas such as less corruption and results are measured more precisely – these are all areas that SDGC/A is involved in implementing. It is evident that when they are 70 DFI's in Africa, there is no need for 70 people to travel to New York to highlight that each country has various positive indicators. Rather, it would be useful to have two to three individuals from the SDGC/A, who are investor relations experts, to travel to New York and see the large institutions and market the idea that the SDGs are part of the ESG Universe which has been growing exponentially. As 90 per cent of millennials indicate that they would be willing to give up some market return if they were assured that the money that they are investing would be able to do good. The SDGC/A can be involved in the following areas:

- Investor relations to the outside world – relieving this job from the DFIs as this is a specialized function
- Measuring precisely where and how the SDGs are being implemented

- Application of the application of new innovative finance techniques, such as green bonds as in 2016 96.4 billion US dollars of green bonds were issued. Today, African Development Banks can issue green bonds, whilst five years ago this notion did not exist.
- Bringing together best practices. When DFIs have pitch-days to bring together the entrepreneurs, investors and finance specialists in the country that follow one SDG and strategies with implementation of these best practices in other African countries. DFIs would have to be the experts in the country level.

Address by Session Chair Mr. Admassu Tadesse

President and CEO of the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank

African development finance institutions (DFI) have done a lot to give the industry a more solid footing. Improvements in financial, managerial and operational standard have improved the credibility of the rating system within African development banks. Although there is a lot of work that still awaits, DFIs on the continent are at much higher level of readiness with more suitability to take on the expectations of the SDGs. Industry bodies such as The Association of African Development Finance Institutions (AADFI), Southern African Development Community Development Finance Resource Centre (SADC-DFRC) are interested in promoting standards and building capacity from within, which builds the bridge to international finance.

One of the challenges for working with many African DFIs is that they are not dollar denominated, which can pose the risk of loss in currency exchange. The practical challenge of getting low interest loans for small start-ups was shared by many as a major challenge for African entrepreneurs who have great business ideas that are limited by capital. It is suggested that the SDGC/A should maybe assume the role of a catalyst or a convener by bringing all stakeholders to the table for brainstorming through solutions.

Many solutions that have been proposed in the past to mitigate small business loan issues have been unsustainable. Bank loans and micro finance solutions had interest rates that were too high for small business startups and interest rate caps have negatively impacted national economies. Research in access to finance will be critical to generating more ideas that support economic growth for African innovators. If the SDGC/A looks into where development banks are not set up to go, this may point to structural issues that proliferate access to finance issues, which need to be monitored.

The idea of blending is currently a buzzing idea in the finance industry, where commercial sources from venture capitalists are blended with non-commercial sources that provide technical assistance, so to minimize the risk in investment for non-commercial capitalists. The royalty

revenue sharing model also provides financial security for successful business models that can serve as platforms for various sustainable development solutions. Therefore, ideas such as blending, concessional funding, royalty revenue sharing, angel investors and venture capitalists in capital rich countries can still fill the gap for start-ups, but they are hard to come.

The social sector also raised concerns in receiving aid in the current political climate where investments with slow returns are not attractive. Unfortunately, grant funding is going to be the main means for financing the social sector, unless it has a social business model, which can tap into concessional funding and subsidized interest rates. We may also need to consider setting up a fund that is managed by the SDGC/A, catering to innovative ideas. The scale of operation for our domestic resources is determined by how well supported they are by us. The key role of technology in the advancement of the banking system has been highlighted; additionally, it is no longer safe for traditional banking to conduct business as usual while more high-tech systems are investing in security that threatens their operation.

Through it all, we need to be aware that fixed capital formation in Africa is sitting at 18 per cent, compared to 42 per cent in China alone. This is a clear display of reality that international resources will be playing a key role in Africa's infrastructural development, and the SDGC/A would have the important role of bridging that relationship. However, with the current geo-political climate changing who will be our major funders and how they will provide funds, we have to be prepared to go through a paradigm shift in how we resource our development. It is also critical to keep in mind that the starting point for countries to define their path of development is to align DFIs and SDGs with a nation's vision of progress.

Resolutions

- High interest rate is a problem but interest rate caps are also a problem so we get into a paradox that doesn't give room to solutions. A research question for the SDGC/A to find out how access to finance can be more affordable.
- As most development banks are not equipped to work with startups, the SDGC/A should consider where development banks are not set up to go because it points to a structural issue. Angel investors and venture capitalists in capital rich countries might be interested to fill the gap of support for startups. We have MFIs but venture capitalists are hard to come.
- We have to focus on solving retirement security and employment security issues of the millennia's who will be the majority of the working population soon. The solutions can come from establishing retirement plans, pension plans and so on, which have to have a substantial yield for the investor.

- Research is going to be key for the implementation of the SDGs, but think tanks have been depending donor funding that is declining across Africa. It is important to observe other ways, including knowledge production and research, can think tanks contribute.
- The SDGC/A should play the role of a catalyst and a convener for those who want to share this information and development banks can catalyze that finance further.
- The SDGC/A should look into the extent to which DFI are able to tap into these sources of capital which come at a low cost. Very few African countries have an investment grade rating, which the minimum grade rating expected by global pools that may look to invest on the continent. How can the SDGC/A act as an advocate to lift African DFI profile that don't meet the rating requirements but have viable reputations for development.
- SDGC/A should get behind ideas such as royalty revenue sharing model that provide financial security for successful business models that can serve as platforms for various sustainable development solutions.
- SDGC/A should work with regulators to insure the graduation of African traditional banking infrastructure to innovative methods being utilized by bigger economies.
- SDGC/A should pull resources that could be considered as the SDG Fund for Africa, which will have very low interest rates for young people who want to start businesses.
- SDGC/A should provide the cushion needed by the African economy in times of such shocks so the benefits gained are not eroded?

Session III: India-Africa Partnership: The Pan-African ICT Platform for SDGs (Aadhaar Program)

The Thematic Group Session III was chaired by Honorable Jean Philbert Nsengimana, Minister of Youth and ICT, Rwanda, with a presentation by Mr. Gordon Shaw, SDGs Advisor, SDGC/A.

Introduction

The session began with an introduction by the Honorable Jean Philbert Nsengimana about the overall purpose of the session and providing context to the African and more specifically the Rwandan situation. There was then a presentation by Mr. Gordon Shaw, SDG Advisor, SDGC/A which covered a unique and cutting edge Indian technology on biometric identification program (Aadhaar program) and has been very successful in India. The Indian Government hired private companies to assist with the registration process. This ID program is in not only more secure, thereby minimizing fraud and other leakages; it can also be connected to many other public and private services, where a verified ID is needed. It is possible (in future) to use it as a single ID for everything -- replacing passports, drivers' license, etc. This technology, which is time and cost-effective and whose roll-out in India was started in 2010 and within a period of just 5 years (by 2015), a total of 1 billion people were covered at a cost of US$ 1 per person. Given the many similarities with Africa in terms of population size, poor ICT infrastructure and where many people have no ID cards (especially in rural areas), this Indian technology seems to be relevant and easier to adopt. The opportunity for adoption of this technology is possible based on the recent Agreement between UN, African states, SDG Center and Government of India to implement this in Africa

Presentation Abstract

Presentation 1: Aadhaar for Africa: How to translate India's ID program and its benefits for Africa
Mr. Gordon C. Shaw, SDGs Advisor, SDGC/A

Aadhaar is a biometric based ID program that has been rolled out all over India in the past 7 years to over 1 billion people. Lack of proper and reliable identification is also an issue for many African countries, and the Aadhaar program has shown that an ID where a person can be reliably identified based on his/her biometrics is appropriate for largely rural poor populations that may have no previous identification. With an ID, these people can more easily be brought into formal

structures and be provided services without leakages. In addition, this ID can be connected to many other public and private services such as banks and telecoms which further help to connect these people.

Bringing people into the formal sphere with an Aadhaar-type ID is key to meeting many crosscutting SDG objectives and allows governments to target support initiatives to the populations that need them. This most directly relates to Goal 10, which aims to reduce inequality within and among countries. A final benefit is that countries will be able to more accurately track progress for SDG targets by looking at aggregated data for health, education, and as a proxy for poverty, social assistance programs. This will support SDGC/A's future work by boosting our M&E efforts across countries and within specific projects implemented by the Center.

Resolutions

- In order to kick-start the Aadhaar program in Africa, four countries have volunteered to pilot this initiative. These are Rwanda, Benin, Mozambique and Ghana. These countries were chosen to test different geographies, languages, government structures, etc. The lessons learnt from these pilot countries will inform the expanded roll-out in other interested African countries.

- The Aadhaar program can be translated to Africa, particularly if we take into account the many similarities between India and Africa, participants raised the issue of fear of abuse (by government agents and criminals) of personal information collected for the identification.

- African Governments should be in control of the registration exercise and the use of private companies is not advocated: In most African countries, specialized Government agencies are charged with the information management, including citizen registration, data storage and regulation of the ID programs.

- Most African countries have ID programs, which are managed by the Government as public entities or parastatals. The identification is mostly digitized using fingerprints – and hence less secure compared to the Indian case, where the iris scan is used.

- Even though the mobilization of people for registration is voluntary in most African countries, the major motive is the requirement for an ID, when seeking such services like driving license, buying mobile phone, etc.

- There is no correlation between the size of population and cost of registration -- i.e. the smaller the population the cheaper is the registration exercise, because there are other elements such as ICT infrastructure, literacy rates, local governance aspects, etc., which have to be factored in.

- The appropriate age of registration needs to be examined: In most African countries the age of 18 years is used compared with 16 years in India.

- In the event that most African countries have embraced the Aadhaar program, the ID can be used like passport across borders -- similar to recently introduced Pan African passports. In order to achieve this, the legal frameworks of the various countries have to be harmonized. The African Union Commission could play a key role here, particularly after the recent agreement between India and Africa on the Pan-African ICT Platform, for which the SDG Center has been given the facilitation role.

- The SDGC/A will coordinate efforts between Indian experts and African countries for imparting the knowledge to designated government agencies for the program, including software development, and a country specific deployment plan.

- The identification of migrant population (e.g. the Maasai in East Africa) was also discussed - more thinking is needed in those countries with such people.

The Aadhaar program is very relevant to Africa and concerted efforts should be made to adopt it. Since there is an existing Agreement between UN, African states, Indian government and the SDG Center (as facilitator) to implement the Aadhaar program in Africa, the piloting exercise in the four countries should start as soon as possible. Even though private sector companies may be contracted to collect data at the grassroots level (as was the case in India), the African governments are supposed to take charge of this exercise, because they are more trusted by the citizens due to the known fear of abuse of stored personal data/information. Following the pilot in the four selected countries, the program will be opened up to all interested African countries.